

Message Text

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TO CINCPAC HONOLULU HI

S E C R E T STATE 218740

EXDIS - MILITARY ADDRESSEE HANDLE AS SPECAT EXCLUSIVE

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOL SINGAPORE 4001 SENT ACTION SECSTATE INFO KUALA LUMPUR

LONDON SEPT. 12; REPEATED TO YOU QUOTE

S E C R E T SINGAPORE 4001

EXDIS

DEPT ALSO PASS (AS APPROPRIATE) TO CINCPAC FOR POLAD

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MASS, SN, ID

SUBJECT: SINGAPORE JUNGLE TRAINING CENTER IN BRUNEI

REFS: (A) SINGAPORE 3554; (B) SINGAPORE 3992

1. DEPUTY PM AND DEFENSE MINISTER GOH KENG SWEE CALLED ME TO HIS OFFICE AT NOON TODAY TO (A) REMIND ME WHAT HE HAD TOLD ME IN RECENT DINNER CONVERSATION CONCERNING PM LEE KUAN YEW'S INTENTION TO DISCUSS PROPOSED SINGAPORE JUNGLE WARFARE TRAINING CENTER IN BRUNEI WITH PRESIDENT SUHARTO IN BALI (REF-TEL A); (B) REPORT THAT SUHARTO HAD NOT SPOKEN AGAINST THIS

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CONCEPT AND GOS HAD THEREFORE REQUESTED UK CONCURRENCE VIA UK

HIGH COMMISSIONER PETER TRIPP (REFTEL B);
AND (C) ASK THAT U.S. BACK UP WITH FCO
IN LONDON SINGAPORE'S REQUEST FOR UK CONCURRENCE.

2. GOH STATED THAT TRIPP HAD PERSONALLY BEEN SUPPORTIVE OF SINGAPORE CONCEPT OF JUNGLE TRAINING IN BRUNEI, BUT ALSO POINTED OUT THAT DECISION WOULD HAVE TO COME FROM LONDON. GOH INDICATED CLEARLY THAT HE ANTICIPATED SOME PROBLEMS IN LONDON AND, REMARKING THAT BRITISH WOULD PREFER TO KEEP EVERYTHING PEACEFUL IN THIS AREA OF THE WORLD, I.E., THEY WANTED TO AVOID TROUBLE WITH MALAYSIANS OVER BRUNEI.

3. I ASKED GOH IF GOM HAD BEEN CONSULTED YET ON BRUNEI SCHEME, AND GOH REPLIED THAT PM RAZAK WAS BEING INFORMED RE GOS INTENTIONS. THIS WAS BEING DONE, PERHAPS TODAY, BY MEANS OF NOTE TO RAZAK WHICH WOULD BE DELIVERED BY SINGAPORE AMBASSADOR. GOH NOTED ALSO THAT THEY HAD TALKED TO BRUNEI GOVERNMENT, WHICH WAS "ALL RIGHT."

4. IN PROVIDING BACKGROUND ON BRUNEI JUNGLE WARFARE TRAINING CENTER, GOH WENT OVER SAME GROUND CONTAINED REFTEL (B) ON SINGAPORE'S ESTIMATION OF WORSENING SECURITY SITUATION IN MALAYSIA. ACCORDINGLY, HE SAID, IF MALAYSIA COULD NOT BE RELIED UPON TO PROTECT SINGAPORE'S SECURITY INTERESTS, SINGAPOREANS WOULD HAVE TO DO IT FOR THEMSELVES. AT THE VERY LEAST, SINGAPORE WOULD NEED TO PROTECT ITS WATER SUPPLY.

5. ACCORDING TO GOH, GOS IS NOT INTERESTED IN USING BRITISH JUNGLE WARFARE TRAINING FACILITIES IN BRUNEI BUT WILL WANT TO SET UP OWN SEPARATE SCHOOL. REASON IS THAT ROTATION SCHEDULE OF FIVE UK BATTALIONS (4 IN HONG KONG AND ONE IN BRUNEI) WOULD CLOG UP FACILITIES AND MAKE IT IMPOSSIBLE FOR GOS TO FIT IN THE EIGHT BATTALIONS WHICH THEY INTEND TO TRAIN. GOS PLANS TO PROGRAM FOUR BATTALIONS PER YEAR TO BRUNEI.

6. ONCE AGAIN GOH MADE IT PLAIN THAT SINGAPOREANS BELIEVE THEY HAVE BEEN LET DOWN BY PM RAZAK ON GOS USE OF MALAYSIAN JUNGLE WARFARE TRAINING CENTER. GOH STATED THAT DURING JAMAICA CONFERENCE LEE KUAN YEW AND RAZAK HAD AGREED ON PROGRAM OF JOINT COUNTERINSURGENCY TRAINING, INCLUDING GOS USE OF MALAYSIAN JUNGLE

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WARFARE SCHOOL, AND JOINT COUNTERINSURGENCY SEMINARS IN THE U.S. GIVEN BY U.S. EXPERTS TO POINT UP WHAT LESSONS U.S. HAD LEARNED IN VIETNAM. IT WAS ON THIS BASIS THAT LEE QUAN YEW HAD ASKED FOR U.S. ASSISTANCE, OUT OF WHICH CAME SHACKLEY/CROWE MISSION. HOWEVER, AFTER RETURNING TO MALAYSIA FROM JAMAICA AND NEW YORK, (WHERE SINGAPOREANS BELIEVED RAZAK HAD SPOKEN FAVORABLY TO U.S. OFFICIALS ON COOPERATION IN COUNTERINSURGENCY TRAINING WITH SINGAPORE) RAZAK HAD BEEN EVIDENTLY TALKED

OUT OF JOINT EFFORTS BY MALAYSIAN GENERALS AND GHAZALI SHAFIE.
GOH ASSUMED THAT THESE PEOPLE AROUND RAZAK FELT GOM HAD SECURITY
SITUATION MILITARILY WELL IN HAND, AND THAT COOPERATION WITH
SINGAPORE THEREFORE NOT NECESSARY.

7. IN RESPONSE TO GOHS REQUEST THAT U.S. MAKE REPRESENTATIONS
TO FCO ON SINGAPORE'S BEHALF, I SAID THAT I WOULD INFORM WASH-
INGTON SOONEST. I TOLD GOH THAT IT WOULD BE HELPFUL TO U.S.
IN THIS REGARD IF PM RAZAK WERE TO COME OUT WITH FAVORABLE
RESPONSE TO GOS LETTER OR AT LEAST TAKE POSITION WHICH WOULD
NOT BE IN ACTIVE OPPOSITION. I REMINDED GOH THAT SINGAPORE
TRAINING OF ANTI-AIRCRAFT UNITS IN BRUNEI HAD RLREADY BEEN
SUBJECTED TO MALAYSIAN PRESS CRITICISM IN NEWSPAPER IDENTI-
FIED WITH UMNO.

8. COMMENT: IT IS EVIDENT THAT SINGAPOREANS FEEL VERY STRONGLY
ABOUT JUNGLE WARFARE CENTER, AND IN FACT REGARD IT AS KEY
ELEMENT IN THEIR DEFENSIVE STRATEGY GIVEN AGSENCE OF TRAINING
SPACE LOCALLY AND (TO THEM) DETERIORATING SECURITY SITUATION
IN MALAYSIA. WITHOUT IT THEY WILL FEEL HELPLESS, UNLESS,
OF COURSE, THEY GAIN ACCESS TO MALAYSIAN JUNGLE WARFARE TRAINING
FACILITIES. HOPEFULLY SOMETHING CAN BE WORKED OUT WHICH WILL
SATISFY THEM, BUT WHATEVER HAPPENS I STRONGLY BELIEVE US ROLE
SHOULD BE POSITIVE. OTHERWISE WE WILL SHARE THE ONUS, AND OUR
INTERESTS IN SINGAPORE AND REGION AS A WHOLE WILL SUFFER
ACCORDINGLY.
HOLBRIDGE UNQUOTE KISSINGER

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